

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KINGST 04221 121951Z

63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VOE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SCA-01 CPR-02 A-01 L-03 EB-11 DRC-01 /051 W

----- 111618

R 121808Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3551

UNCLAS KINGSTON 4221

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, ELAB, JM

SUBJ: STAMP DUTY ON WORK PERMITS

REF: STATE 180597

1. THE EMBASSY HAS HAD NO GOJ REACTION TO ITS DIPLOMATIC NOTE OF MAY 10 ABOUT WORK PERMIT FEES.

2. AMERICANS VISITING JAMAICA FOR 14 DAYS OR LESS INTENDING SOLELY TO ADVISE AGENTS AND DISTRIBUTORS, OR TO LOCATE NEW AGENTS OR DISTRIBUTORS, HAVE NOT BEEN REQUIRED UNDER THE LAW TO OBTAIN A WORK PERMIT. FEW, IF ANY, BUSINESSMEN REMAIN LONGER THAN 14 DAYS IN THIS PURSUIT, BUT THEY WOULD BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A WORK PERMIT IN THE EVENT THEY EXCEEDED THE 14-DAY LIMIT. IF THE VISIT IS AIMED AT TAKING OR SELLING ORDERS, A WORK PERMIT IS REQUIRED FOR ANY PERIOD, AS WELL AS PAYMENT OF THE FEES.

3. ANY BUSINESSMEN COMING TO JAMAICA TO SELL, WHETHER OR NOT CARRYING SAMPLES, MUST OBTAIN THE WORK PERMIT AND PAY A FEE OF J\$150.00 (ABOUT US\$165.00) FOR ANY PERIOD UNDER THREE MONTHS. WE BELIEVE SOME AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN HAVE NOT MET THE REQUIREMENTS BUT HAVE NOT BEEN CAUGHT. IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE THE EFFICIENCY WITH WHICH THE REGULATIONS ARE ENFORCED. WE HAVE LITTLE DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT ANY SALESMAN IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS SUCH WILL BE OBLIGED TO ACQUIRE A WORK PERMIT AND PAY THE FEE. A COMPLICATING FACTOR, HOWEVER, IS GOJ RELUCTANCE TO ISSUE PERMITS TO SALES PEOPLE SINCE IT BELIEVES THAT THERE ARE JAMAICANS WHO

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 KINGST 04221 121951Z

COULD DO THE JOB. PERMITS MUST BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO COMING TO

JAMAICA.

4. SOME LOCAL AGENTS HAVE INDICATED TO THE EMBASSY THEIR DISPLEASURE WITH THEIR AMERICAN PRINCIPALS (AND US COMPETITOR FIRMS) WHO OCCASIONALLY SEND SALESMEN TO JAMAICA. PART OF THE IMPETUS LEADING TO THE GOJ POSITION ON WORK PERMIT FEES CAME FROM JAMAICAN AGENTS WHO LEARNED OF SALES MADE BY AMERICANS OPERATING HERE WHICH DID NOT RESULT IN COMMISSIONS FOR THE JAMAICANS. THE JAMAICAN CUSTOMER SOMETIMES PREFERS TO BUY FROM THE AMERICAN RATHER THAN THE LOCAL FIRM SINCE HIS PRICE OFTEN IS SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER.

5. THE WORK PERMIT SITUATION RANKLES NUMEROUS LONG TERM RESIDENT EXPATRIATES. THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS IN LEADING US COMPANIES CONTINUES TO DECLINE AS THE GOVERNMENT PURSUES "JAMAICANIZATION" OF FOREIGN FIRMS. THE GOJ POSITION IS AMBIVALENT TO SOME EXTENT BECAUSE IT RECOGNIZES THE NEED FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND THE LEGITIMATE DEMAND BY JAMAICAN FIRMS AS WELL AS FOREIGN INVESTORS FOR QUALIFIED EMPLOYEES, OFTEN UNAVAILABLE IN JAMAICA. IN THE MEANTIME, THE EXPATRIATES GRUDGINGLY PAY US\$600.00 YEARLY FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF WORKING.

6. A COPY OF THE PERTINENT REGULATIONS IS BEING AIR POUCHED TO ARA/CAR.

7. IN VIEW OF THE HIGH SENSITIVITY OF JAMAICANS IN GENERAL TO CHANGES IN VISA REQUIREMENTS, PLEASE NOTIFY EMBASSY WELL IN ADVANCE SHOULD IT BE ESTABLISHED THAT FEES ARE TO BE CHARGED JAMAICAN NATIONALS RECEIVING NON-IMMIGRANT H AND L VISAS. EMBASSY WOULD PREFER TO NOTIFY APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES BEFORE THEY LEARN OF CHANGE FROM OTHER SOURCES.
HEWITT

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUSINESSMEN, LABOR LAW, EMPLOYMENT, WORK PERMITS, NATIONALS, VISITS, FEES, EXPATRIATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KINGST04221
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731230/aaaaavqx.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 180597
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <01-Nov-2001 by williad, INA>; RELEASED <26 FEB 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2002 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STAMP DUTY ON WORK PERMITS
TAGS: CVIS, ELAB, JM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005